

WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

REPORTS

OF THE

Town of Weston,

FOR

THE YEAR ENDING

March 15, 1872.

BOSTON:

J. M. HEWES, PRINTER, 65 CORNHILL.

1872.

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OFFICERS

OF THE

TOWN OF WESTON, 1872.

SELECTMEN AND OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

EDWARD COBURN, GEORGE W. DUNN,
BENJAMIN F. CUTTER.

ASSESSORS.

ALONZO S. FISKE, EDWIN HOBBS,
SAMUEL F. CLARK.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

GEORGE W. DUNN, 3 years, EDWIN HOBBS, 2 years,
REV. A. F. BENSON, 1 year.

TOWN CLERK.

GEORGE W. CUTTING, JR.

TREASURER AND COLLECTOR.

HORACE HEWS.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

REV. EDMUND H. SEARS, JOHN COBURN,
OLIVER R. ROBBINS.

LIBRARY TREASURER.

HORACE HEWS.

TRUSTEES OF MERRIAM FUND.

EDWIN HOBBS, ISAAC COBURN,
GEORGE W. CUTTING, JR.

OFFICERS OF THE TOWN OF WESTON.

BURIAL GROUND COMMITTEE.

EDWIN HOBBS, ISAAC COBURN,
HORACE HEWS.

HIGHWAY SURVEYORS.

District No. 1. FRANCIS A. CASWELL,
 " " 2. LUTHER S. UPHAM,
 " " 3. ELI E. BEMIS,
 " " 4. ALONZO S. FISKE,
 " " 5. WILLIAM SEAVERNS, JR.
 " " 6. SAMUEL F. CLARK.

MEASURERS OF WOOD AND BARK.

District No. 1. GEORGE W. CUTTING,
 " " 2. EDWARD E. BROWN,
 " " 3. GEORGE W. DUNN,
 " " 4. DANIEL GARFIELD,
 " " 5. BENJAMIN F. CUTTER,
 " " 6. JOHN T. HARRINGTON.

SURVEYORS OF LUMBER.

DANIEL GARFIELD, NATHAN BARKER,
GEORGE W. DUNN.

FENCE VIEWERS.

NATHAN BARKER, T. C. RICHARDSON,
INCREASE LEADBETTER.

FIELD DRIVER.

LUTHER S. UPHAM.

CONSTABLES.

ALONZO S. FISKE, HENRY D. BOWEN.

LIBRARIAN.

JOHN COBURN.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECTMEN OF WESTON.

THE Selectmen of the Town of Weston, for the year ending March 4th, 1872, submit to the town the following report of the financial condition of the town, and, also, their estimate of expenditures for the ensuing year.

During the past year all the necessary and incidental charges and expenses of the town have been paid.

Agreeably to the order of the County Commissioners and the vote of the town, the North road has been repaired and graded at a cost of \$10,165.59, and accepted by the unqualified approbation of the County Commissioners, likewise the hill by house of Edwin Hobbs has been levelled and graded at an expense of \$1,000, much to the satisfaction of the travelling public, and these two items combined make a sum of \$11,165.59 extra for roads during the past year. The outstanding debt of the town is \$4,000 more than last year. The sum in the Treasury and uncollected taxes is about \$1,400, about \$800 more than last year, at the time of making up the official report, thus showing that the town is indebted in reality only about \$3,200 more than at the close of the last official year.

The means by which this favorable condition of our finances has been arrived at are, 1st. Corporation Tax ; 2d. Bank Tax ; 3d. Allowance of County Commissioners on account of North road ; 4th. The remarkable showing of the Almshouse Establishment, as compared with previous years.

We, as usual, refer you to the Treasurer's forthcoming Report, which will, in detail, contain all the items of Receipts and Expenditures, and will show the exact state of our finances, differing from this, only being made up to a later date.

For the ensuing year we would recommend grants as follows, viz. :—

For Schools,	\$2,800	same as last year.
“ Highways,	1,800	“ “ “
“ Poor and incidentals,	3,000	
		<hr/>	
		\$7,600	

With such grants of appropriations as the town may deem expedient for extra road repairs and payment of the town debt.

Respectfully submitted by

ALONZO S. FISKE,	} <i>Selectmen</i>
EDWARD COBURN,	
GEO. W. DUNN,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>Weston.</i>

REPORT

OF THE

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

— ♦ —

THE Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Weston submit to the town the following report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Pauper Establishment for the year ending March 4th, 1872.

RECEIPTS.

Cash received from sale of cows and horses,	\$350 00
“ “ “ “ calves,	69 38
“ “ “ “ potatoes & sundry articles,	60 10
“ “ “ “ hay,	25 00
“ “ “ “ wood,	338 79
“ “ “ “ milk,	844 00
“ “ from labor off farm,	2,240 00
“ “ “ Cooper Garfield, part payment—	
board and clothing,	62 33
“ “ “ Treasury,	95 30
	\$4,084 90

EXPENDITURES.

Cash paid Geo. Lawrence, Superintendent, 13 days,	13 00
“ Henry Wheeler, “ 11½ months,	300 00
“ corn, meal and oats,	319 06
“ brewer's grains and sprouts,	327 14
“ eight cows,	380 00
“ two horses,	109 00
“ labor,	1,014 48
“ horse cart,	80 00
	\$2,542 68
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	

	<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	<i>\$2,542 68</i>
Cash paid meat,		330 80
“ fish,		59 01
“ blacksmith and wheelwright's bills,		133 99
“ pump,		25 00
“ clothing and dry goods,		97 40
“ shoemakers' bills,		16 12
“ repairs on barn,		14 75
“ coal,		44 44
“ Stickney & Sons, tin ware, repairs, &c.		18 32
“ grass seed,		18 20
“ plough and various tools for farm,		33 75
“ harnesses and repairs,		57 75
“ medical attendance,		25 00
“ pasturing,		6 00
“ groceries and sundry items,		586 69
“ assistance rendered Mrs. Wm. Harrington,		30 00
“ Overseers, for their services,		45 00
		<hr/>
		<i>\$4,084 90</i>

We had fully anticipated closing the official year without drawing upon the Treasury, but being disappointed in the collection of sums due for milk and some items to the amount of \$415, in order to pay all demands upon the establishment, we have drawn from the Treasury \$95.30. It will be seen that if we collected what is due, we should have a surplus rising \$300 over and above all expenses. The first time since the town owned the establishment that it has paid its way.

The inmates are as comfortable, considering their age and infirmities, as could be reasonably expected. Their number remains the same as last year.

The number of travellers or vagrants lodged and fed during the past year has been eighty.

Respectfully submitted by

ALONZO S. FISKE,	} <i>Overseers</i>
EDWARD COBURN,	
GEO. W. DUNN,	
	<i>of</i>
	<i>the Poor.</i>

TREASURER'S REPORT.

—♦—

THE undersigned, Treasurer of Weston, herewith submits his account of Receipts and Expenditures for the year ending this day.

HORACE HEWS.

WESTON, MARCH 15, 1872.

—

Receipts.

Balance in the Treasury, March 15, 1871,	\$67 54
John Coburn, rent of Town Hall,	65 00
George W. Cutting, weighing fees,	32 10
Burial lots sold,	12 00
County Commissioners, on account of North road,	500 00
J. Dudley, " " " "	69 10
Insurance dividend,	18 00
County of Middlesex, on account of Dog Licenses,	164 89
State of Massachusetts, on account of School Fund,	139 22
" " " State Aid refunded,	250 00
" " " Corporation Tax,	3,665 53
" " " National Bank Tax,	1,986 36
Waltham National Bank, temporary loans,	13,700 00
Horace Hews, Collector, taxes, 1871,	14,295 80
" " " 1870,	441 98
" " " 1869,	106 00
" " " 1868,	2 00
" " " 1871—betterments,	5 68
	\$35,521 20

Schedule of Expenditures.

FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Paid School Committee, \$2,946 00

[For items of Expenditure, see Report of School Committee.]

FOR SUPPORT OF THE POOR.

Paid Overseers of the Poor, \$95 30

FOR REPAIRS OF HIGHWAYS.

District No. 1.	\$442 28
“ “ 2.	390 00
“ “ 3.	150 00
“ “ 4.	338 00
“ “ 5.	351 10
“ “ 6.	175 00
	<hr/>
	\$1,846 38

FOR EXTRA REPAIRS OF ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Grading and repairing North road,	\$10,165 59
O. Donnel, excavating and grading hill near house of Edwin Hobbs,	1,000 00
B. F. Cutter, railing and grading road near Starr's and Roberts' bridges,	112 25
B. F. Cutter, " " " " " bridge,	140 35
F. A. Caswell, relaying culvert,	21 00
E. Coburn, repairing bridge,	20 00
	<hr/>
	\$11,459 19

CARE AND REPAIRS OF SCHOOL HOUSES.

School Committee, repairs of School-houses, and articles furnished,	\$125 32
Abijah Gregory, painting and repairs of School-houses,	441 52
E. Hobbs, repairs of School-houses and articles furnished,	6 00
J. S. Gould, “	5 70
Abijah Gregory, repairs of School-houses and articles furnished,	12 49
F. A. Robinson, “	4 25
Andrew Warren, clocks,	15 50
Daniel Smith, repairing chairs,	1 00
School Committee, care of rooms,	107 00
“ “ books,	9 45
Fuel,	252 25
G. W. Cutting & Son, items,	42 63
	<hr/>
	\$1,023 11

FOR INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

Richard J. French, labor,	\$3 00
“ “ “ cutting wood,	16 62
Selectmen's order book,	5 50
Advertising,	3 25
J. M. Hewes, preparing and printing Town Reports,	75 83
Rand, Avery & Frye, “ Library Catalogues,	203 46
John Coburn, preparing “ “	40 00
“ “ paper,	2 75
Quincy Fire Insurance Co., insurance on Library,	61 00
John Coburn, care of Town Hall,	63 35
Town Library,	127 01
Town of Lincoln, tax,	11 48
<i>Amount carried forward,</i>	<i>\$613 25</i>

	<i>Amount brought forward,</i>	\$613 25
B. Peirce, wood for Town Hall,		12 62
G. Upham, " " "		4 38
McLaughlin, rebinding Library books,		7 70
J. H. Curtis, surveying roads,		21 00
W. G. Shattuck, repairing settees and items furnished,		26 13
John Coburn, items for Library,		9 25
Springfield Fire and Marine Ins. Co., insurance on Town Hall,		71 00
R. M. Lucas, refreshments for Newton Fire Department, at fire of F. A. Bush's house,		11 12
Burial Grounds,		19 25
Library Committee, expenses purchasing books,		6 00
Ringing bell,		1 50
A. S. Fiske, services on account of valuation, Corporation Tax and Bank Tax,		16 00
A. S. Fiske, stationery, expressage and postage,		10 49
F. A. Robinson, work in Library room,		32 80
E. Coburn, services as constable,		2 50
L. A. Ellis, damage by blasting rocks,		5 00
H. Hews, distributing Town Reports,		3 00
" " stamps, stationery and expressage,		6 42
Wood for Town Hall,		15 00
George W. Cutting & Son, items,		18 04

 \$912 45

FOR STATE AND COUNTY TAX.

State Tax,	\$2,725 00
Counry Tax,	1,109 35

 \$3,834 35

FOR LOANS AND INTEREST.

Waltham National Bank,	\$9,700 00
Sundry persons and institutions, interest,	1,160 57

 \$10,860 57

FOR SERVICES OF TOWN OFFICERS.

Edwin Hobbs, superintending schools,	\$38 00
A. F. Benson, " "	38 00
G. W. Dunn, " "	38 00
A. S. Fiske, Selectman,	40 00
Edward Coburn, "	25 00
G. W. Dunn, "	25 00
A. S. Fiske, Assessor,	75 00
E. Hobbs, "	36 00
N. Smith, "	36 00
John Coburn, Librarian,	75 00
G. W. Cutting, Jr., Town Clerk,	52 29
Horace Hews, Collector and Treasurer,	185 00

 \$663 29

FOR STATE AID.

Paid Selectmen's orders, to be reimbursed by the State,	\$223 50
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FOR DISCOUNTS.

Discounts on taxes paid to Oct. 15, and prior to that date,	\$615 02
“ “ “ “ from Oct. 16th to Jan. 1st, inclusive,	94 88
	<hr/> \$709 90

FOR ABATEMENTS.

Abatement of taxes, 1868,	\$2 00
“ “ “ 1869,	106 00
“ “ “ 1870,	26 11
“ “ “ 1871,	59 40
	<hr/> \$193 51

SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURES.

Town purposes,	\$20,329 55
State Tax,	2,725 00
County Tax,	1,109 35
Loan on account of 1870,	1,000 00
Discounts and abatements of Taxes	903 65
Temporary Loans,	8,700 00
	<hr/> \$34,767 55
Balance in the Treasury,	753 65
	<hr/> \$35,521 20

DEBT OF THE TOWN.

Bonds of the Town,	\$8,450 00
Weston Town Library,	1,300 00
Estate of A. H. Fiske,	3,500 00
Theodore Jones, Trustee,	1,000 00
Waltham National Bank, temporary Loan,	5,000 00
	<hr/> \$19,250 00

TAXES UNCOLLECTED.

Taxes for 1870,	\$10 52
“ “ 1871,	529 60
	<hr/> \$540 12

AUDITOR'S REPORT.

We, the subscribers, Selectmen of Weston, have examined the foregoing account, and find the same well vouched and correctly cast.

EDWARD COBURN,	} <i>Selectmen</i> <i>of</i> <i>Weston.</i>
GEORGE W. DUNN,	
BENJAMIN F. CUTTER,	

WESTON, MARCH 15, 1872.

REPORT

OF THE

LIBRARY COMMITTEE.



THE Town Library is in a flourishing condition, and we are happy to say, judging from the books taken out, gains steadily in the favor and appreciation of the citizens of the town. It has been the aim of the Committee to supply it with an increasing number of works of permanent use and value ; the best histories and biographies, works of science and books of travel. There will be more demand for this class of reading with the growing intelligence of the people. The market is flooded with works of fiction, some of which will be of more than transient interest, but most of which will soon be forgotten. In our selection of books we have avoided the latter class as much as possible and sought for those works of fiction which have an intrinsic worth and a good moral tone. Sometimes a work is called for which is making a sensation in reading circles, and it is worth while to buy it and read it for the sole purpose of learning what the popular taste is and on what thin pabulum its cravings are satisfied. There are people who will read story books merely for the excitement of the story itself, and because such reading requires no intellectual or moral effort. We doubt whether such reading tends to any other result than confirmed moral indolence and emptiness of both heart and brain.

We have purchased for the Library during the past year 150 volumes. Among them are works of sterling value ; works in which science is popularized ; biographies and books of travel and

popular histories. We believe there is a growing interest in historical reading. There certainly ought to be. No young person ought to regard himself tolerably educated or decently intelligent till he has read thoroughly the history of his own state and country; and if his mind has been properly touched and awakened, he will keep on and include in his plan of reading and study the histories ancient and modern, which will give him some adequate knowledge of the past and consequently of the age in which he lives. The Weston library is not extensive, numbering at present only about 3000 volumes, but it already contains some of the best standard historical works which will afford facilities for such a course of useful and delightful studies.

Besides the 150 volumes purchased during the year, sixteen volumes have been added by donation. The donors are Hon. G. M. Brooks, Hon. Charles Sumner, F. T. Bush, Esq., and the American Unitarian Association.

The librarian records during the year, books drawn from the library 5808,—a greater number than ever before during the same period, and including a larger proportion of solid reading. We commend the library to the continued fostering care of the town, it being an essential auxiliary to its school system in the education of its youth and the diffusion of intelligence.

EDMUND H. SEARS,	}	<i>Library Committee.</i>
NAHUM SMITH,		
JOHN COBURN,		

Weston, March 9th, 1872.

REPORT

OF

LIBRARY TREASURER.



HORACE HEWS *in account with the* WESTON TOWN LIBRARY.

DR.

Balance in Treasury March 15, 1871,	.	.	.	\$37	54
From Town Treasury,	.	.	.	127	01
Interest from Library Fund,	.	.	.	78	00
Fines,	.	.	.	8	25
					\$250 80

CR.

Noyes, Holmes & Co., for books,	.	.	.	\$215	56
Expressage,	.	.	.	1	75
Balance in Treasury,	.	.	.	33	49
					\$250 80

HORACE HEWS, *Treasurer.*

REPORT

OF THE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

UNDER the favorable circumstances that have attended the labors of teachers and scholars the past year, it is not an unpleasant duty to present our annual report. We do not expect perfection in this department of human labor and enterprise. Failures will occur ; mistakes will be made under the most faithful management and constant watchings. But, we rejoice that we can present so favorable and prosperous a condition of affairs connected with our public schools. We hope the failures, as well as the successes of the past, will serve to incite our citizens to secure the highest educational advantages possible to our youth, and see that they avail themselves of such advantages. With these preliminary remarks, we proceed to speak of the individual schools.

DISTRICT No. 1. Miss Ella Ellms, Teacher.

This school has remained under the direction of Miss Ellms for the year, whose persevering care and labors it has enjoyed for the fifth term. She has spared no pains to secure for those under her care, the benefits of an excellent school. And though she may not have fully realized the desire of her heart in the rapid progress of her pupils, still she has not toiled in vain. Considering the size of the school, and the wild, intractable element which pervades it to some little extent, we do not expect all that holiday show and glitter that smaller schools with elements more impressive are able to present. We believe the teacher has aimed to do

her duty, and to do it faithfully ; and we judge the progress of the school, more from what we saw of its every day workings, than of its appearance on the day it closed.

Since the close of the last term, Miss Ellms has tendered her resignation. We kindly ask for whoever may fill her place, the expressed sympathy of the parents, and also that they will heartily co-operate for the best discipline and highest advancement possible for the school.

DISTRICT No. 2. { Miss Olive R. Viles, } Teachers.
 { Miss Abbie C. Fiske, }

Miss Viles had charge of this school till the close of the Fall Term, when she resigned her position. Some things connected with these two terms we wish had been different. We fear that the scholars did not always manifest that affection and respect for their teacher, which are so commendable in pupils, and always essential to any high degree of true success. Their conduct outside the school-room sometimes, was far from commendable ; and some things about the premises, we are sorry to say, suffered injury at their hands. In study they made fair progress. But had the teacher's authority been felt more, both within and without, it would have been better.

The Winter Term was under the direction of Miss Fiske, a resident of Weston, and a graduate from the Weston High School. This was Miss Fiske's first effort in the school-room as a teacher ; consequently she could not bring to her work the experience of most of the other teachers. But she did bring good scholarship, good common sense, a pleasant, cheerful countenance, a rich musical voice, and a disposition to work. We engaged her because we had no thought but she would make a successful teacher, and she has fully met our expectation. She stands in the front ranks of teachers. The scholars vie with each other in manifesting their affection for her. The progress of the school has been very satisfactory to both parents and Committee. The school during the last term was very much interrupted by sickness, and at one time stopped ; yet the examination was highly satisfactory. It occu-

pies a position more respectable now than it has for some time past. It is one of the smallest schools in town ; but there is a prospect that its numbers will be increased.

DISTRICT No. 3. Miss Ella Ritner, Teacher.

Miss Ritner has had charge of this school for five terms. We regret that we cannot report it, in many respects, in a more prosperous condition. The scholars appear to have made fair progress in their studies ; still things go hard ; the wheels grind on their axles, and a good deal of force is spent to overcome the attrition of machinery. There seems to be a margin between the teacher and pupils ; we mean by this, that there is a lack of adaptation and sympathy ; and where this is the case, there will be hard work and slow, uncertain progress. In order to benefit a scholar much, the teacher must well understand the scholar's capacities, and adapt her instruction to them. If the teacher fails to do this, the result will be frequent misunderstandings, repeated mistakes, and continual confusion of thought. Stores of knowledge cannot make up for the lack of ability in a teacher to make herself understood by those she is called to instruct. We think Miss Ritner better qualified to teach scholars more advanced than those attending here.

In this school are a few boys that seem to delight in the practice of things that annoy the teacher and disturb the harmony of the school. Some of them have gone so far with their depredations about the premises, as to expose themselves to the penalties of the law ; and the Committee intend to look after these matters, and put the school in a better condition. One boy stands suspended. We hope to be able to report affairs in a better condition at the close of another year.

DISTRICT No. 4. Miss Martha E. Fiske, Teacher.

The records show that Miss Fiske has taught ten terms in the town of Weston, four of them being in this district. This is all that is necessary to be said in her favor ; for had she not taught *well*, she could not have taught so *long*. This is the largest

school in town, and requires decidedly the most labor and patience to successfully manage ; but Miss Fiske has ever shown herself fully equal to her position, and in spite of many discouragements, has succeeded in maintaining a fair discipline and securing a very commendable degree of progress in study. We deeply regret that such fidelity to duty, so much patient toil, should receive a pecuniary compensation so limited.

Some of the pupils in this school have little or no assistance in their studies at home ; all they learn, they learn at school. Under these circumstances, very rapid progress cannot reasonably be expected. We hope the friends of this school will not only deeply sympathize with the teacher, but render her such assistance as lies in their power. .

On account of an invalid sister, Miss Fiske resigned her position at the close of the last term. The Committee have granted her leave of absence for the next term, hoping she will be able to resume her place in the school-room at the commencement of the Fall Term.

DISTRICT No. 5. { E. Fannie Coburn, } Teachers.
 { Annie C. Coburn, }

In the report of last year it was stated that Miss Fiske, under whose care the school had been for four years, had resigned. At the opening of the Spring Term, the school was placed under the instruction of Miss Fannie Coburn, a graduate of the Weston High School. Miss Coburn had no experience to aid her in filling a position so difficult, difficult only because having been so ably filled by her predecessor. At the close of the term, the Committee thought best to make a change, and Miss Annie Coburn was appointed to take charge of the school. Miss Annie had graduated from the Weston High School, but could not bring to her assistance past experience as a teacher. But when she entered upon her duties, things immediately assumed a healthy, cheerful appearance ; order prevailed and neatness enthroned itself in the school-room. We have no hesitation in placing her in the foremost ranks of teachers, and we sincerely hope we may be able to enjoy her services in this department of labor for many years.

Seldom are we so puzzled for something to find fault with as when we are visiting this school. The school was very much interrupted by sickness during the last term, and at one time closed for two weeks; yet the examination was highly creditable to both teacher and pupils. The taste for drawing in this school is excellent, and we are glad that it is being so well cultivated.

DISTRICT No. 6. { Miss Eliza A. Cooper, } Teachers.
 { Miss Addie L. Brown, }

For several years, prosperity has smiled upon the interests of this school. With competent teachers and without frequent changes, and with an unusual amount of intelligence behind the desks, this school has risen to a very commendable position. Being more remote from the High School than most of the other district schools, the children here have remained longer than usual in their home school. We believe they have been gainers instead of losers, and certainly the school has been more interesting on this account. The school continued under the instruction of Miss Cooper till the close of the Spring Term. We were sorry when she said she must resign. She had rendered faithful, efficient service, and left the school in a healthy, prosperous condition, retiring with our benediction resting upon her. She was succeeded by Miss Addie L. Brown, a graduate from Waltham High School. Thoroughly educated for her position, possessing great energy, and with four years' experience in teaching at the South, Miss Brown has fully succeeded in maintaining the previous reputation of the school. Lessons are well studied and well taught, and the pupils are ready with the reason *why*. The gymnastics, if continued as we hope they will be, will save some of the children here from narrow chests, spinal troubles and pale faces. So long as the present teacher remains, we shall have no anxiety for the welfare of this school. But this has been a kind of *intermediate* state between absolute single life, and the great world of matrimony; at any rate, several we believe, who have occupied this position, have passed directly from it into that state. We wish no evil when we express the desire, that the event will not soon be repeated.

HIGH SCHOOL. { Mr. J. H. Larry, } Principal.
 { Mrs. J. H. Larry, } Assistant.

Most of those who will read this report are well acquainted with the condition of this school. Many of the families in town have one or more members enjoying the benefits of its instruction and discipline. The duties of the teachers for the year past have been more arduous than in previous years, as a much larger number of students have been in attendance ; still, we have every reason for believing that the instructions given have been as faithful, and the school as successful as in any previous year. And while Mr. and Mrs. Larry have labored to advance the students as rapidly as possible, and secure thoroughness, they have spared no pains in making their way smooth and cheerful. This is one reason why such harmony has prevailed in the school-room, and so much success crowned the labors of the year.

Thirteen graduated at the close of the year, the largest number that has gone out from this school at any one time, having finished the prescribed course of study.

No new class will be formed the present year. If any are prepared to enter this from the other schools, they will enter classes already formed. It is our conviction that scholars are losers by entering the High School before they are thoroughly qualified. They have to apply themselves closely in order to keep with their classes, passing too hastily over things of importance, and, of necessity, graduate with only a superficial knowledge of what they ought to be thoroughly acquainted with. The Committee intend to guard against this evil which would be not only damaging to the scholar, but detrimental to the character of the school.

They, also, beg of parents to cheerfully make all the sacrifices necessary to give their children the benefit of the complete course of study, in both the English and Classical Departments. Do not take your sons out of the school for any pecuniary consideration, unless it is an actual necessity. So far in the history of the school, the number of girls that have pursued the regular and complete course, has been much larger than that of boys. Shall we conclude that mothers are more willing than fathers to make

sacrifices for the education of their children? The future of this school never appeared more promising.

SCHOOL-HOUSES.

We believe it to be of great importance that those attending school, have pleasant and comfortable accommodations. And the character of a town can be very correctly determined by the condition and appearance of its school-houses. We have felt that it was a duty we owed, both the scholars and the town, to put our houses in better condition.

Three of them, in Districts 2, 3 and 4, have undergone repairs the past year. Besides other improvements, they have been thoroughly and tastefully painted. Two more will require similar improvements the present year. When this is done, our six school-houses will be so many monuments to the intelligence of Weston.

We cannot close this article without presenting to the citizens of our town, a question upon which they must soon be called to act. The room in which the High School is kept, is not a suitable place for a school. Besides being of too small capacity for the number of students in attendance, the rays of the sun are seldom seen and felt within it. Plants would not thrive where your children are sent to have their mental powers developed and educated. They should have as pleasant and sunny a room for the opening of their minds, as is required for the flowering of plants. A word to the wise is sufficient. We recommend to the town to take measures for providing a suitable place for this school at the earliest day possible.

Statistical Record.

The amount of money appropriated by the town, for
the payment of teachers' wages, exclusive of fuel

and care of rooms,	\$2,800 00
Amount received from Massachusetts School Fund, .	139 22
Total,	<hr/> \$2,939 22

Paid Mr. J. H. Larry, Principal of High School,	. . \$900 00
“ Mrs. “ “ Assistant “ “ . .	292 00
“ the teachers in the District Schools,	. . 1,752 00
<hr/>	
Total,	. . \$2,944 00
Paid for fuel,	. . \$252 25
“ “ care of rooms,	. . 113 00

Attendance.

Whole number of scholars attending school during the year.	Scholars.	Av. Attend.	Per cent. of av. Attend.	Perfect in Attendance.	Tardy Marks.
In Distret No. 1, . . .	36	30	94	1	106
“ “ “ 2, . . .	15	10	90	0	62
“ “ “ 3, . . .	24	15	88	0	216
“ “ “ 4, . . .	44	34	90	1	84
“ “ “ 5, . . .	14	11	91	0	16
“ “ “ 6, . . .	21	18	94	3	31
“ High School, . . .	74	52	88	1	46
	228	170	91	6	561

The following are the names of those whose attendance has been perfect during the year.

Allie Moore, Ernest H. Warner.

Anthony Irving, Edmund F. Lovewell.

Freddie B. Smith, Frank Upham.

Number of scholars attending school under five years of age,	3
“ attending over fifteen,	42
“ attending between five and fifteen,	183

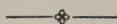
Respectfully submitted,

ALONZO F. BENSON,	} School Com. of Weston.
EDWIN HOBBS,	
GEORGE W. DUNN,	

R E P O R T

ON

B U R I A L G R O U N D S .



THE Committee on Burial Grounds herewith submit their Annual Report. The expenditures have been as follows :

Cash paid Wm. Jones for plants and care of same,	\$5 00
“ John Deavall for labor on So. Burial Grounds,	3 50
“ Freeman Jennison for labor,	5 50
“ Edwin Hobbs for services,	3 00
“ Horace Hews “ “ 	2 25
	<hr/> \$19 25

The Committee would again call the attention of the town to a fact which may not be generally known, that but very few desirable lots remain unoccupied in the Centre Yard. Some provision must be made at an early day for an enlargement of the present yard, or securing a place in some other locality. Quite a number of new lots are taken up every year, and it is equally sure that in a short time every unoccupied lot will be secured. Some provision must be made very soon in order to supply this constant demand. Many who were born in town and whose early days have been passed among us, after an absence of many years are returning to seek a resting-place among their kindred. The aged Patriarch, at the close of his earthly pilgrimage, said to his son Joseph, “ Bury me not, I pray thee, in Egypt, but I will lie

with my fathers, and thou shalt carry me out of Egypt and bury me in their burying-place.”

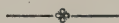
This desire, so natural to every human heart, we have felt bound in all cases to respect. They have expressed their willingness, in all cases, to pay more than the usual price for their lots, and have assured the Committee of their intention to inclose with granite, and thus add to the general appearance of the grounds. We believe that abundant room should be provided by the town, and that this want of former, as well as present and future residents, should be fully provided for, and at such rate of compensation as in the judgment of the Committee shall seem just and proper.

We hope that some measures will be adopted by the town at the approaching April meeting, by which this subject will receive a full and careful investigation.

Respectfully submitted,

EDWIN HOBBS,	} .	<i>Burial</i>
ISAAC COBURN,		
		<i>Ground.</i>
		<i>Committee.</i>

TOWN CLERK'S REPORT—1871.



BIRTHS.

Whole number for the year,	21	Of American parents,	17
Males,	10	“ Irish “	3
Females,	11	“ Nova Scotia parents,	1
	— 21		— 21

For the past five years the records of births stands as follows :
1867, 16 ; 1868, 21 ; 1869, 21 ; 1879, 21 ; 1871, 21.

INTENTIONS OF MARRIAGE.

The whole number of couples who received certificates was 13 :
In which both parties belonged to Weston, 6 couples.
In which but one belonged to Weston, 7 “

MARRIAGES.

The whole number of marriages recorded in Weston for 1871,
was 13 couples :

In which one or both parties belonged to Weston, 10 couples.

In which neither party belonged to Weston, 3 “

The first marriage of 25 persons. The second marriage of 1.

The oldest person married in Weston in 1871, was 54 years
of age. The youngest was 18 years old.

For the past five years the record of marriages stands as follows :
1867, 8 ; 1868, 13 ; 1869, 9 ; 1870, 5 ; 1871, 13.

DEATHS.

The whole number in Weston in 1871 was 18, of which 6 were
males and 12 females.

The oldest person who died during the year was Ichabod Peirce, who was 90 years, 7 months and 10 days old.

<i>Diseases.</i>		<i>Ages.</i>	
Old age,	6	Under 10 years of age,	3
Disease of heart,	4	Between 40 & 50 yrs. of age,	1
Consumption,	2	“ 50 & 60 “ “	2
Liver complaint,	1	“ 60 & 70 “ “	2
Typhoid fever,	1	“ 70 & 80 “ “	3
Scarlet “	1	“ 80 & 90 “ “	4
Accidental,	1	“ 90 & 100 “ “	2
Cholera infantum,	1	Still-born,	1
	<hr/> 17		<hr/> 18

The number of deaths that have occurred in Weston during the last five years are as follows :

1867, 19; 1868, 22; 1869, 17; 1870, 10; 1871, 18.

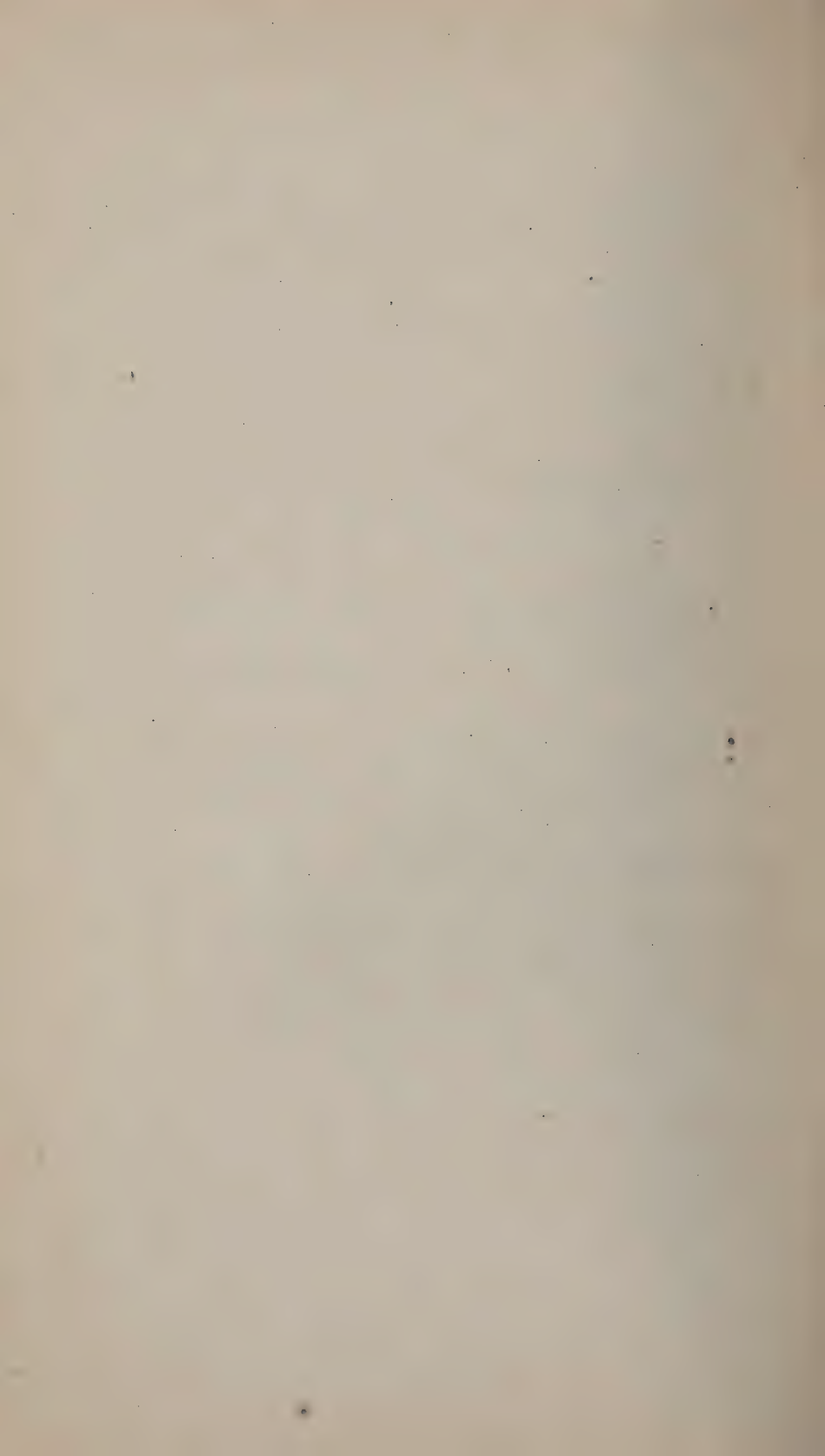
Number of dogs licensed during the year 1871, . . . 89

Amount received for same, . . . \$199 00

Less Clerk's fees, . . . 17 80

Amount paid County Treasurer, . . . \$181 20

GEO. W. CUTTING, JR., *Town Clerk.*



ADDITIONS TO THE WESTON TOWN LIBRARY.

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Atwood, D. T. Country Houses,	811
Barry, P. The Horticulturist,	807
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Report of the Commissioner of Patents (Agriculture) for 1870,	2883
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Waring, G. E., Jr. Handy-Book of Husbandry,	809
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BIOGRAPHY.

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" " Ingham Papers,	3826
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"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
"	"	"	"
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Harper's Monthly.	40th vol.	1933
"	41st "	1934
"	42d "	1935
"	43d "	1938
Hunt's Merchants' Magazine for 1871,		1936
Hale, E. E. (Ed.)	Old and New. Vol. 3,	1937

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“ “ “ Second vol.	1776
“ “ “ Third vol. (Illus.)	1777
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“ “ “ 1870-71,	1781-82
State Board of Health, Second Annual Report of,	1773
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